



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

P. O. Box 490
Van Buren, MO 63965
573-323-4236

Ozark National Scenic Riverways News Release

For Immediate Release
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Ozark National Scenic Riverways Seeks Public Input on Construction of a Temporary Trail and Hoist at Bat Cave

Van Buren, MO – The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is seeking to construct a gate to protect Bat Cave on property it owns in Shannon County, Missouri. As part of the project, the organization plans to install a temporary trail and hoist to be used to haul equipment and materials to the cave. The property is under a scenic easement owned by the National Park Service (NPS) which restricts these types of activities without authorization in writing. An environmental assessment (EA) for the project has been developed, and will be available for public review and comment from November 23, 2011 through December 23, 2011.

Bat Cave is a significant hibernacula for Indiana bats. In consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy determined that an improved gate should be constructed to provide further protection to hibernating bats. Specific project questions can be directed to TNC, Missouri Ozarks Office, Current River Project Manager, Preston Mabry at 573-323-8790.

The EA is available electronically for review and comment online by visiting <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>, the website for the NPS's Planning Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) system. Comments may also be sent to:

Bat Cave Temporary Trail and Hoist EA
Ozarks National Scenic Riverways
P. O. Box 490
Van Buren, MO 63965
Fax: 573-323-4140

Commenters should be aware that their remarks, including names and home addresses, are considered public information and may be released to the public. While commenters can request that their personal identifying information be withheld from public review, the NPS cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

For more information, phone (573) 323-4236 or visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/ozar. Ozark National Scenic Riverways preserves the free-flowing Current and Jacks Fork Rivers, the surrounding natural resources, and the unique cultural heritage of the Ozark people.

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